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PREMIERE ISSUE
APRIL 2005

Game Face

Official Magazine of the Cleveland Indians

THE JOY IN MUDVILLE

Casey Blake has a new contract and a new position. AND HE'S ALL SMILES.

MAKING MEMORIES

Learning to keep score
can last a lifetime

& MORE

ERIC WEDGE
on Raised Expectations

AARON BOONE
on Breaking in his Glove

KEVIN MILLWOOD
on his Comfort Zone

PEEK INSIDE
Pronk's Locker



05 Vol. 1 Game Face \$2.00



All photos: Gregory Drezdson



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

DEAR INDIANS FANS: WELCOME TO JACOBS FIELD!



Together, we enter the 12th season of Indians Baseball at Jacobs Field. We look forward to providing you, your family, friends and business associates with the very best in sports entertainment.

Upon completion of the 2004 season — one in which the Indians earned 12 more wins than in '03, and were in contention to win the American League Central

Division for five and a half months of the six-month Major League Baseball season — we entered this past offseason with a clarity of purpose. We needed to add to our blossoming core group of players, with a focus on contending for the division title for all six months.

GM Mark Shapiro and his staff achieved their offseason objectives by adding a number of experienced players to the roster that provide Manager Eric Wedge and his coaches depth and flexibility. Our belief in the team concept, a "one through nine" approach as Eric likes to refer to it, is at the center of our efforts. It takes a total team effort to earn success during the 162-game baseball season. And, that includes you.

Whether you choose to enjoy Indians Baseball by visiting Jacobs Field, listening on the 30-station Indians Radio Network with flagship station WTAM, watching on FOX Sports Net Ohio, accessing via our website at Indians.com, or reading the newspaper coverage, your enjoyment of Tribe baseball is our top priority.

The foundation of our long-term success is a strong farm system, and we will continue to provide Mark and his staff with the resources necessary to add to our talented core group of players who are the building blocks for our future success. The Cleveland Indians are poised to contend for the AL Central Division title for years to come.

Our success also centers on providing you an enjoyable, fun visit to Jacobs Field. The 2005 year marks the 105th season as a Charter Member of the American League. Baseball is one of our city's oldest traditions. We embrace our rich tradition, as well as the special bond that exists between a city and its baseball team.

GO TRIBE!

Sincerely,

Larry Dolan

Owner and Chief Executive Officer

Game Face

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BIG TRIBE GAMES, 6 GREAT SEATS
STARTING AT JUST \$36 BUCKS...

What a deal ~~STEAL!~~

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

PLAN 1 All Red Sox. All Yankees.

PLAN 2 Six Weekend Postgame Fireworks Nights.

PLAN 3 Six Sunday Kids Fun Days.

PLAN 4 Plan FOR a great time...it'll be big!

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What's a Six Pack without a cooler? Your friends at Pepsi
are throwing in a **Six Pack cooler**, PLUS a coupon good for
your favorite Pepsi product.



**Friday is Ultimate Car Giveaway
& Custom Car Night.**

Your chance to win one car per inning — from
small to BIG, including a 2005 Ford Mustang.
Don't miss the action on Gateway Plaza as
the Indians present a custom car show.

ULTIMATE CAR GIVEAWAY

THE BATTLE OF OHIO...Tribe vs Cincinnati Reds Weekend, June 24-26



**Saturday Night
Fireworks**, PLUS the first
20,000 fans receive a
**Victor Martinez
Bobblehead**



Sunday is Kids Fun Day
All kids 14 and under
receive **Player Trading
Dog Tags**

Photos: Gregory Drezdson



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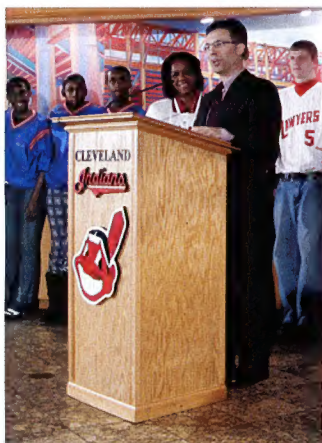
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THE ART OF SCOREKEEPING

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THE JOY IN MUDVILLE

Mighty Casey has not struck out. In fact, after a successful 2004 season, Casey Blake has a fat new contract and a new position. And everyone couldn't be happier.

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THE COMFORT ZONE

Kevin Millwood and other new additions to the Indians roster bring experience and talent that complement the team's core players. But can they also bring a Central Division crown?

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THE REAL GAME WINNER

A \$250,000 donation by Cleveland Indians Charities saved the season for Cleveland city schools softball and baseball teams. More importantly, it made a difference in hundreds of kids' lives.



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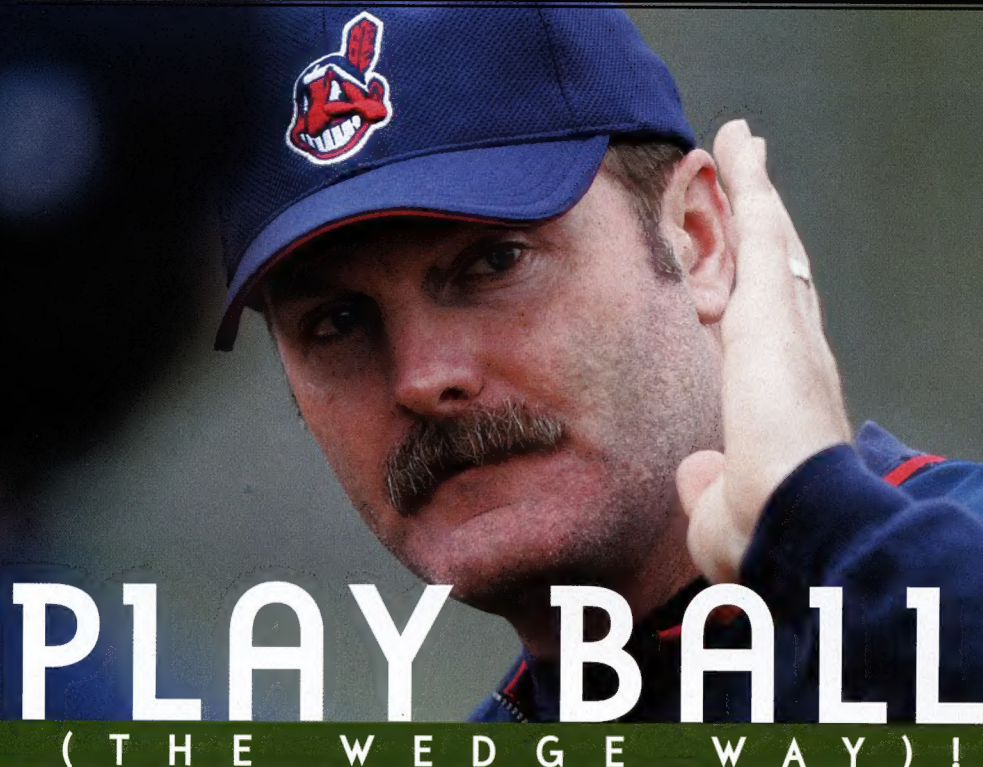
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Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

PLAY BALL

(THE WEDGE WAY)!

The Indians' spirited run at first place in the American League Central Division got Jacobs Field jumping again in 2004. With several key additions, the 2005 team has another challenge in front of it: General Manager Mark Shapiro pegged 2005 as the year fans could expect the Indians to seriously contend.

With fan expectations running high, Manager Eric Wedge sat down to discuss lessons from 2004, the "Blueprint" and the season ahead.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU FEEL LAST SEASON WENT OVERALL?

ANSWER: "I feel very good about what we accomplished. Any time you can improve 12 games in the standings, that's a strong accomplishment. I believe what our team went through will positively impact this year and beyond. We made strides in several areas; many of our young hitters continued to develop. What we need to do now is continue to move forward."

Q THREE YEARS AGO, MARK SHAPIRO SET 2005 AS HIS TARGET TIME FOR SUCCESS. FANS ARE EXCITED THAT CLEVELAND COULD RETURN TO POSTSEASON PLAY. IS THAT UNREALISTIC?

A: "It's good to hear that the fans believe. What we want people to do is look at the past few years, see the progression, and then look at what we accomplished as far as player moves and bringing players back. Obviously, we do have reason for optimism."

Q HAS THE TEAM'S 'BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS'

GONE AS YOU ENVISIONED WHEN YOU BECAME MANAGER?

A: "I think that if you could go back to the beginning of this rebuilding process, then flash ahead and say this would have happened and you would have gone through these ups and downs, but this is where you will be coming into '05 ... I think everybody would have taken it. We also respect the game enough to know we have to keep working hard to keep moving forward. We fully intend to do that throughout the 2005 season. Our expectations are much higher."

Q DO YOU GET THAT SAME SENSE OF ANTICIPATION FROM THE PLAYERS?

A: "Absolutely. A Kevin Millwood doesn't come here as a free agent or an Alex Cora, Jose Hernandez or even Aaron Boone unless there is an expectation to win. It works both ways. The organization pursues these players when it believes it is time to make a run. We are all coming out to work hard and win the division. We feel like we are very capable of doing that."

Q HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO HAVE SO MANY VERSATILE PLAYERS?

A: "We are always going to have to make sure we have depth, because we are not going to be able to afford to go out and spend a ton of money to replace somebody. We need to make sure we have somebody ready. We have quality depth at both the Major League level and at Triple-A. That is what you need to be a championship team."

— Chuck Murr

GONE IN
60
SECONDS?

KEEP PLAYS ALIVE WITH DIGITAL DOWNLOADS

"It's going ... going ... gone!!!"

It only takes a second for a Victor Martinez homer to clear The Jake's 19-foot wall or for Ronnie Belliard to jump and throw his way to a double play.

Seeing is believing, but what happens if you blink? Or miss the whole game for that matter?

Now the awesome plays, highlights and games of the Cleveland Indians can live on in more than just your memory.

America's favorite pastime has gone high-tech. Fans can download a variety of radio and TV clips from Digital Download Service, with prices ranging from \$.99 to \$3.95.

"This service is for any baseball fan that wants to own a piece of history," says Curtis Danburg, Indians manager of public relations.

So even if you saw all three home runs by Martinez in last season's 18-6 pounding of the Seattle Mariners, (which featured a franchise record-tying eight home runs), you can still download the clip to watch over and over again. Other Tribe moments include radio play-by-play of Game 5 of the 1948 World Series (though the Indians eventually won the Series, the Boston Braves won the game 11-5) and video highlights of last season's 22-0 drubbing of the Yanks, which was the worst in team history.

Check out the team website, indians.com, to find clips from the 2003 and 2004 season, plus clips from the Tribe's past.

It's always a good time to relive the magic.



— KIM SCHNEIDER

Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

HOW TO: BREAK IN A GLOVE

ARON BOONE STANDS AT his third base position during a Spring Training drill, waiting for a ground ball. He swipes a smooth arc in the dirt with the pointed toe of his cleat and pounds his fist in his glove. He folds the webbing toward his palm, then another fist in the glove. A grounder bounces his way, he fields it cleanly, fires it across the infield, takes a return throw and pounds his glove again. Boone repeats the process before another grounder heads toward him.

As a youngster, Boone got plenty of advice on the best way to break in a baseball glove.

His grandfather Ray was a Major League infielder from 1948 to 1960, breaking in as an Indians shortstop. His dad, Bob, was a big league catcher from 1972 to 1990. His older brother, Bret, has been playing infield in the Majors since 1992.

"Growing up in the game, I heard a lot of things about gloves," he says. "I'd wrap up balls in it and tie it up. I'd put shaving cream on it [to soften the leather]. You'd hear all kinds of things."

Going into his seventh big league season, Boone, the Indians third baseman, has discovered the best way to break in a glove: Play baseball with it.

"I play catch and I take grounders," he says. "I work it in. I pound my fist into it. I play with it."

Boone uses a Louisville Slugger GI25-4P model glove. He breaks

in a new glove every season during Spring Training, which he starts with the same routine. He begins with a broken-in glove (the same model) and gradually transitions to the new one.

Boone has used the same model for about 15 years, dating back to his days at the University of Southern California. He gets comfortable with the glove as the team goes through workouts for about two weeks. The glove is usually game-ready by the time exhibition play begins.

And the routine seems to be working. Boone has never had a glove break during the season.

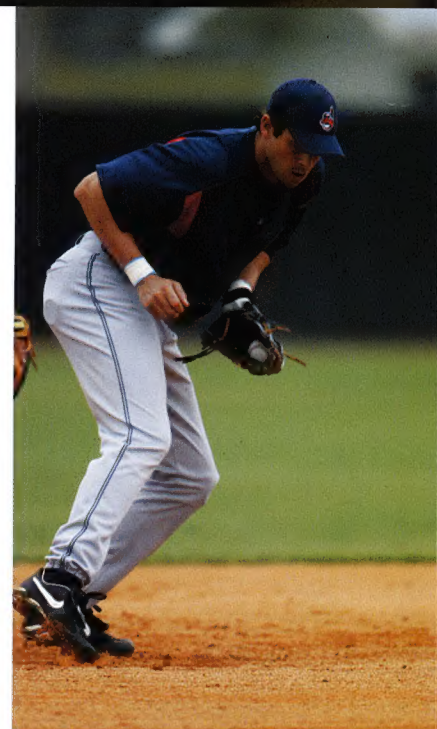
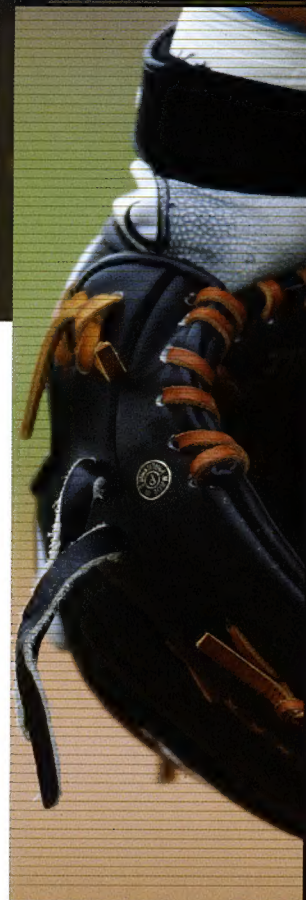
Still, he's not as finicky about his leather as some. "I don't like just anyone grabbing my glove," he says. "I've seen some guys get real upset when someone grabs their glove and puts their hands in it. I guess I'm kind of in the middle when it comes to that."

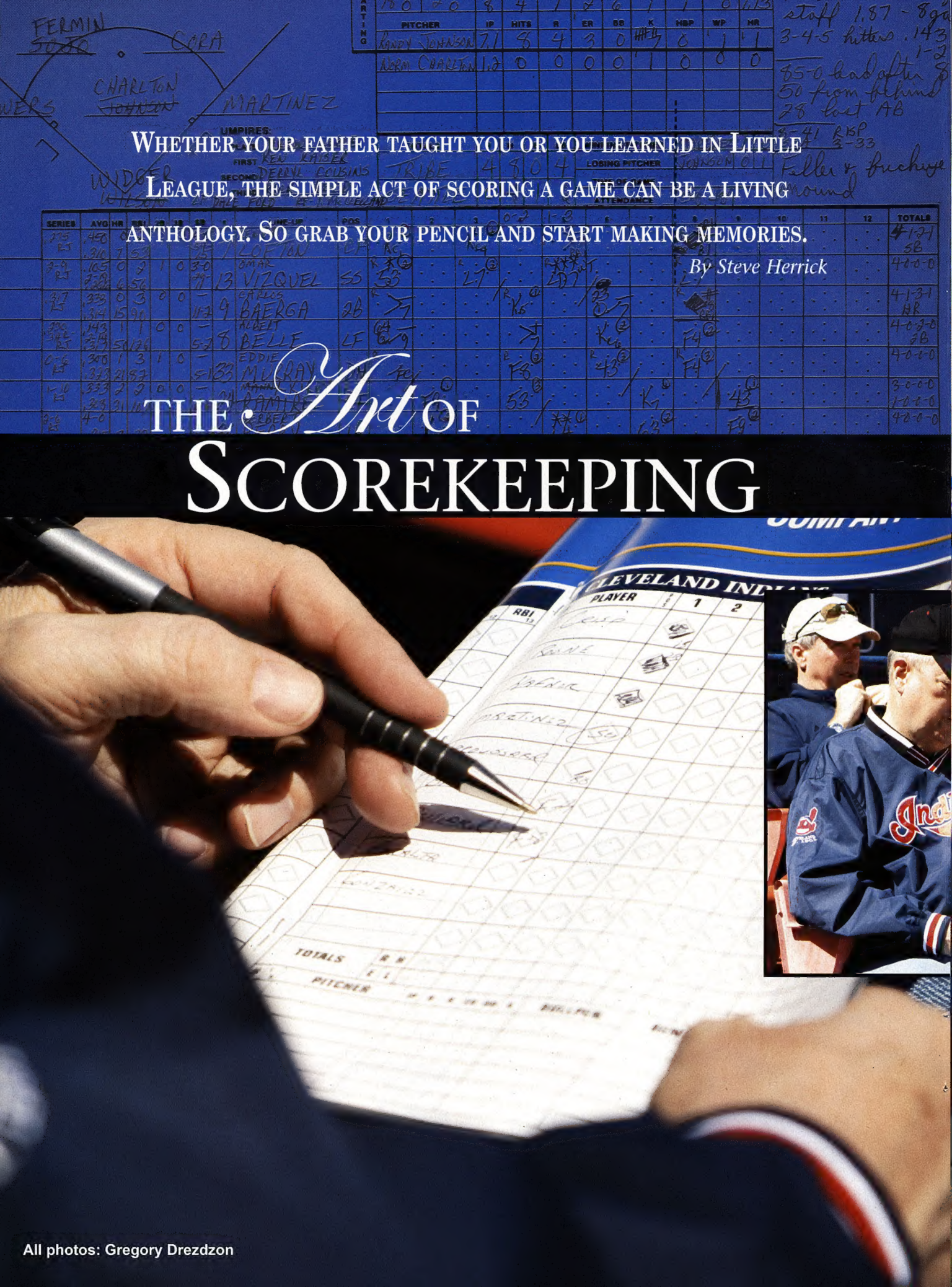
Boone does have one rule: His mitt always gets a special place in the top of the equipment bag.

"Sometimes, especially on the road, when the clubhouse guys pack up your equipment bag, they'll put your glove on the bottom and put your other stuff on top of that," he says. "I don't like it getting smashed down by other things."

Obsessive, you say? Not really. After all, any good craftsman must have the right tools. "You have to feel good about your glove," Boone says. "You can have problems if you don't."

— Steve Herrick





PITCHER	IP	HITS	R	ER	BB	K	HBP	WP	HR
ANDY JOHNSON	7.1	8	4	3	0	11	0	1	1
NORM CHARLTON	1.2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

staff 1.87 - 8 go
3-4-5 hitters .143
1-2
850 had after 8
50 from behind
28 lost AB
8-41 RSP
3-33
Faller & Buchholz
round

WHETHER YOUR FATHER TAUGHT YOU OR YOU LEARNED IN LITTLE LEAGUE, THE SIMPLE ACT OF SCORING A GAME CAN BE A LIVING

ANTHOLOGY. SO GRAB YOUR PENCIL AND START MAKING MEMORIES.

By Steve Herrick

THE Art OF SCOREKEEPING



"When I was six, my father gave me a bright-red scorebook that opened my heart to the game of baseball. After dinner on long summer nights, he would sit beside me in our small enclosed porch to hear my account of that day's Brooklyn Dodger game. Night after night he taught me the odd collection of symbols, numbers, and letters that enable a baseball lover to record every action of the game. ... By the time I had mastered the art of scorekeeping, a lasting bond had been forged among my father, baseball, and me."

— Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin in "Wait Till Next Year," her memoir on growing up in the 1950s as a Brooklyn Dodgers fan

A BASEBALL SCORECARD is nothing more than a piece of paper filled with boxes, columns, and blank spaces.

For purists, however, the scorecard is so much more: It's a living anthology of the game —

its statistics. Even a casual fan knows about Hank Aaron's 755 home runs, Pete Rose's 4,256 hits, and Cal Ripken Jr.'s 2,632 consecutive games played.

Maybe more than in any other sport, baseball greatness is measured in minute detail. As Kevin

Costner's character explains in the movie "Bull Durham," the difference between a .250 hitter and a .300 hitter is a hit a week. That's it — one hit a week — the difference between glory and obscurity.

The scorebook captures those numbers, sketches the storyline in pencil, and surrounds it in ritual.

The first known scorecard appeared in 1845 for the Knickerbocker Ball Club, a team in New York City that was one of the first clubs to establish rules for a game.

According to *Total Baseball, The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia, Third Edition*, Harry Chadwick, a sportswriter

in the 1850s, is credited with inventing the baseball scoring system that is still used today. Chadwick was the first person to assign letters for each play that could take place and numbers for every defensive player on the field.

Even President Dwight D. Eisenhower personally scored every game he attended while in office from 1953 to '61. Eisenhower might have been the most powerful man in the world at the time, but he still recorded all the runs, hits, and errors. The country liked Ike and Ike liked his scorecard.

It's a lineage passed on from fathers to sons and daughters.

Matt Underwood, who works with Tom Hamilton and Mike Hegan on the Indians' radio broadcasts, learned his scoring system from his father.

"He taught me all the symbols and all the numbers for each position," says Underwood. "He also was the coach for my Little League team and I would look at the scorebook when we got home."

He's been doing it the same way ever since, including a memorable Indians-Orioles game at

Cleveland Municipal Stadium in 1979. "I was scoring the game ... the night [Baltimore manager] Earl Weaver got ejected for tearing up the rulebook and throwing the little pieces up in the air," he recalls.

While growing up in Wisconsin, Hamilton's introduction to the art of scorekeeping was similar.

"[My dad and I] would go to doubleheaders at County Stadium to see the Milwaukee Brewers," he says. "We would sit in the right field bleachers because my favorite player was Hank Aaron. I scored the games when we went."

Hamilton has kept scorecards from the Indians' playoff years in the 1990s and 2001, including the World Series in 1995 and 1997. "Every now and then someone will mention a play from one of those games," he says. "I'll go back and look it up and, sure enough, they were right."

Underwood even has his scorecard from the Indians 22-0 embarrassment of the Yankees last season. "The Indians' side is a mess and the Yankees' side is perfectly clean," he says. "I had no idea when I walked into

Jim and Mary Sue Maitland, of Hilliard, Ohio, keep score during a Spring Training game.

Photo: Gregory Drezdow

a personal history written in numbers, letters, and lines. It is as much a part of the American pastime as blue skies, perfectly manicured fields, heckling umpires, batting averages, and hot dogs (with Bertman's Ballpark Mustard, please).

Baseball has always had a special relationship with

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	12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THE JOY IN MUDVILLE

Mighty Casey has not struck out. In fact, after a successful 2004 season, Casey Blake has a new contract and a new position. And everyone couldn't be happier.

BY JEANNIE ROBERTS

CASEY BLAKE IS practically your neighbor. Well, OK, maybe not literally, but he could be. By all accounts, Blake is humble, hard-working, a good husband and father — the things we love to root for. He's the Everyguy We All Love.

It's hard to find anyone who begrudges Blake his new two-year, \$5.4 million contract signed this offseason. Everybody knows it was born of hard work and perseverance, humility, and dedication.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Consider where Blake, 31, has been in pursuit of this deal.

The Toronto Blue Jays picked Blake in the seventh round of the 1996 draft. He put 14 big-league games on his résumé before heading to the Twins on waivers. Seven games with Minnesota led him to Baltimore, who took him off waivers. With the Orioles, he played in six games. When Baltimore waived Blake, it was back to Minnesota. Over two seasons, he appeared in 41 games.

In between, he made stops

he could do in the Major Leagues. We're happy he's showing that here."

Now consider where Blake is going.

It became apparent last season that, with the acquisition of Aaron Boone, Blake would not be long for third base. There was talk of moving him to right field. Then, when Tribe second baseman Ronnie Belliard's future with the club appeared iffy, there was talk of sending Blake to second. Meanwhile, the Tribe came to terms with Belliard and signed free agent right fielder Juan Gonzalez. This time, the talk was of sending Blake to left field.

Confused? Tired of thinking about all the possibilities?

Casey Blake never was.

"He beat me to the punch," says Indians Manager Eric Wedge.

"When we signed Aaron Boone, Casey came to me and said he was willing to do whatever is necessary. He said he wanted whatever is best for the team. He understands as much as anybody what it means to be a good teammate."

Blake says he was never offended at Boone's signing.

"They made it clear that they weren't kicking me out of third base," Blake says. "I know I can play with anybody defensively there. I had some errors last year, but I'm better than the errors showed. Management just made it clear that it'd make us more versatile and a better team if I could move."

Then there was the first big contract to consider.

Blake might have agreed to anything to get this kind of money. "Well, there are several ways to look at that situation," he says. "One of them is that being able to play multiple positions, or being willing to, just puts a couple more feathers in my cap."

He certainly earned the respect of the player who will take up residence at Blake's former home, third base.

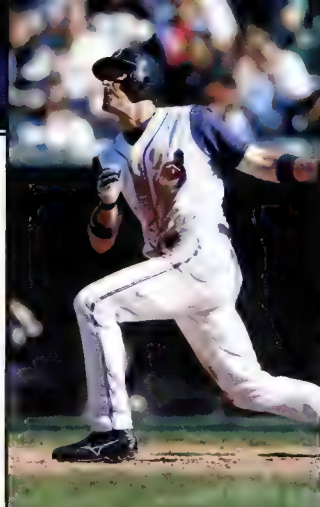
"I don't care who you are, Casey Blake is a great story," says Boone. "He's fought his way through the Minor Leagues, and it's taken him a while. To see guys like that go about it the right way and be rewarded on the field is always a good thing. His unselfishness in being willing to go to the outfield says a lot for him."

Blake exemplifies Shapiro's long-term vision for this team. "We looked for guys with strong values and guys who value the vision we hold," Shapiro says. "Not only did they need that, but they had to have a certain level of talent to go with it. Casey has that."

In addition, Wedge says that Blake's athletic ability will smooth out the transition to the outfield. "The thing is, I feel like he's still ramping up," says Wedge. "Even though he's a little bit older, I feel like his best years are still ahead of him."

Blake hopes so. All those years of hanging on in the Minor Leagues finally mean something.

"I'm very proud of my perseverance," Blake says. "I could have hung it up, but I stuck with it, and I'm glad I did. I saw good things happen to other players, and I thought it might never happen to me."



IN CASEY'S CLOSET

HIS OUTFIELD NIGHTMARE:

Four years ago at AAA Edmonton, Blake allowed a sinking liner to fall in for a hit when his pitcher had a no-hitter going in the fifth. "I came up hard and realized I wasn't going to catch it and just backed up and let it drop," Blake says. "Maybe I should have dove for that, but it was a close game and I cared more about winning than about the no-hitter. I caught a little bit of crap from the pitcher, but he was kidding. I think."

THE WIZARD OF OZ:

In seventh grade, Blake received an Ozzie Smith glove from his dad for Christmas. "In small-town Iowa, practically nobody would pay that much money for a fancy Ozzie Smith glove. I was the coolest guy around."

NO JOY IN MUDVILLE:

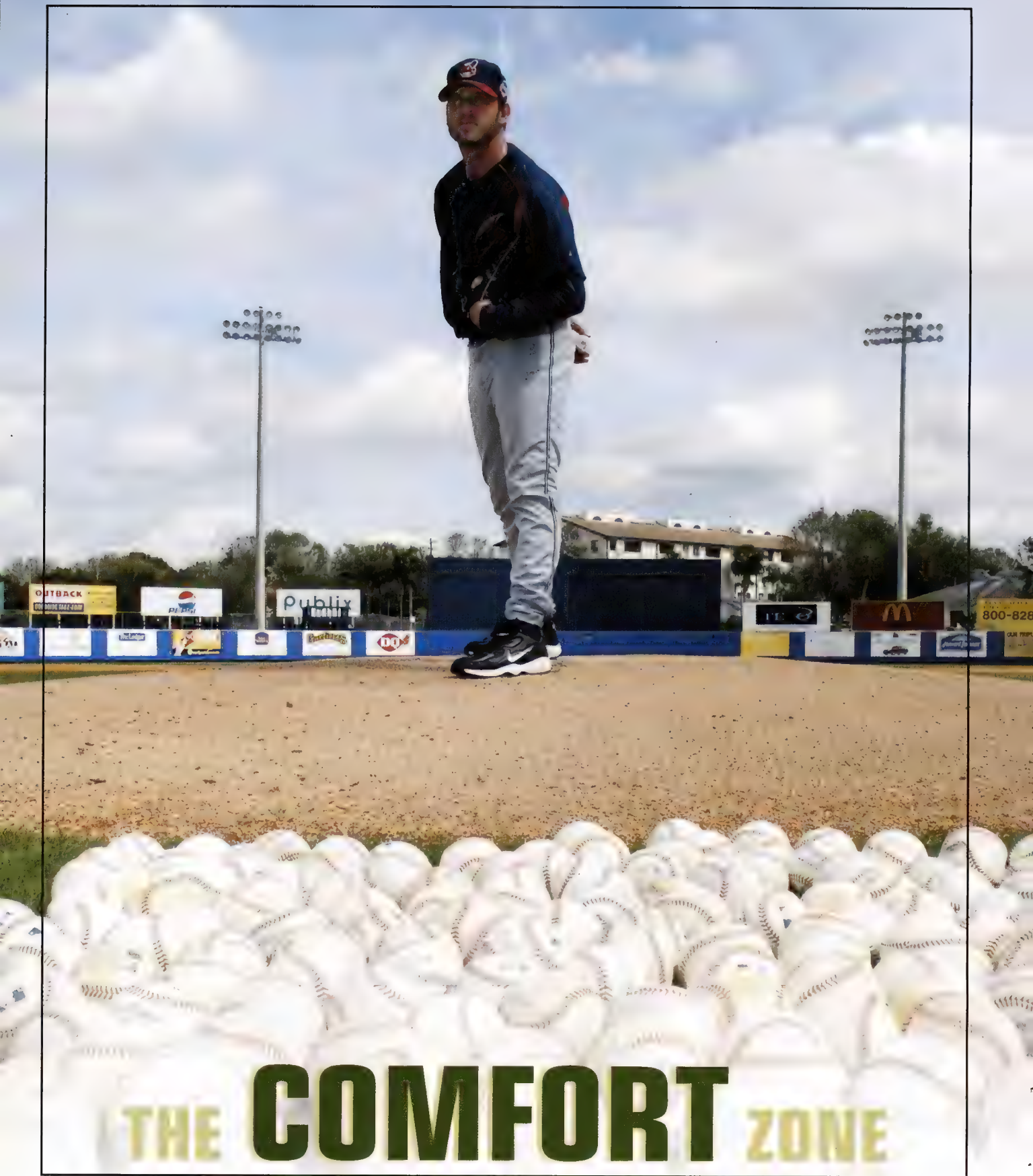
When Blake makes an appearance at an elementary school, what do you think the kids want him to read? "I'm so tired of reading 'Casey at the Bat,' mainly because, geez, he strikes out every time," Blake says. "There's never any joy in Mudville; he always strikes out. I hate that."



in Minor League towns such as Salt Lake City, Edmonton, Syracuse, Dunedin (that's Florida, not New Zealand) and Hagerstown.

But in December 2002, he signed with the Indians as a Minor-League free agent. In 2003 and 2004, he was finally allowed to grow up as a Major Leaguer, accumulating 1,144 at-bats in 304 games. In those two years, he had 45 homers, 155 RBI. Blake hit .271 last season, a 14-point increase over 2003.

"Casey has endured the lack of others' belief in his ability and the lack of opportunity," says Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro. "He was in the Minors, but he never got the real shot to show what



THE COMFORT ZONE

Kevin Millwood and the other new additions to the Indians roster bring experience and talent that complement the team's core players. But can they also bring a Central Division crown? **By Jim Ingraham**

Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

WINTER HAVEN, Fla., is Kevin Millwood's kind of town. Rural. Remote. Relaxed.

"When I'm done with the game," says the native of tiny Bessemer, N.C., "I'll be nowhere near a big city."

It's why Winter Haven feels so comfortable for the 30-year-old Indians pitcher.

The dew is still on the outfield grass as Millwood and his new teammates scatter across four baseball diamonds at the Indians' Spring Training complex.

It's another day of drills. For the pitchers, it's a war against tedium: fielding bunts and covering first base. And throwing. Lots of throwing. They are, after all, pitchers.

Millwood joins four other pitchers on a series of five pitcher's mounds. All five begin throwing, and for the next 10 minutes that's all they will do. In a couple of days they will throw for 12 minutes, then 15 minutes, and eventually they will build up enough arm strength to pitch in Spring Training games.

Millwood is one of a handful of new additions to the Indians this year. He is the most expensive, and arguably the most important, of the newcomers that include outfielder Juan Gonzalez, infielders Jose Hernandez and Alex Cora, and pitcher Arthur Rhodes.

"We didn't just pull these guys out of thin air," says Manager Eric Wedge. "We were looking for certain kinds of guys to bring here."

Especially in the case of Millwood, whom the Indians signed as a free agent to a one-year, \$7 million contract. Millwood spent his first seven years in the

National League, where he won 17 games three times for the Braves and Phillies and pitched 200 innings four times.

The Indians' top priority over the winter was to add an experienced, productive starting pitcher, and Millwood fits the profile.

"He's mentally tough, understands what it takes to win, and is a championship-caliber pitcher, having been in the postseason four times," says Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro.

Millwood was immediately penciled into the Indians' starting rotation, where he is expected to be the veteran presence and leader in a rotation that also includes youngsters C.C. Sabathia, Jake Westbrook, and Cliff Lee.

"He's a bulldog on the mound," says Wedge. "Everything he brings down the pike should help him in our rotation."

The Phillies chose not to re-sign Millwood after last season, when he battled arm problems in the last month of the season, and finished with a 9-6 record. However, he won 14 games in 2003. His best years were with the Braves, for whom he was 17-8 in 1998, 18-7 in 1999, and 18-8 in 2002.

Last year with Philadelphia, Millwood spent time on the disabled list with a strained elbow, and then his shoulder flared up in September, causing him to miss some starts. Health questions limited his market as a free agent, but Mill-

Photo: Gregory Drezdson



BEYOND BASEBALL

If you weren't a baseball player?

"I'd probably be in the military, or a police officer. I couldn't have a desk job. I need to be outside."

Your hobby?

"Hunting and fishing."

What CDs are in your car now?

"Toby Keith and Lynyrd Skynyrd."

What advice would you give your sons if they wanted to be baseball players?

"Don't be a catcher. Be a starting pitcher. That's the best job of all."

wood said it didn't matter.

"This is a good situation for me," he says. "It's a good team with a lot of young guys who play the game the right way. I think we have a good chance to win our division, and that's what everyone wants: To go to Spring Training knowing you have a chance to win."

For a pitcher who has no thirst at all for the bright lights, Cleveland was a good fit.

"It's a smaller city than Philadelphia or Atlanta, so that was appealing to me, too," says Millwood. "My two years in Philadelphia, I

just didn't get out of that city what I wanted. It wasn't a place where I had a whole lot of fun."

Millwood said a winter of rest has rejuvenated his arm. Team officials feel Millwood's presence in the Indians' rotation could help make better pitchers out of the other starters. He has experience being a No. 1 starter on good teams, and that should reduce the pressure Sabathia sometimes put on himself last season to be the staff leader.

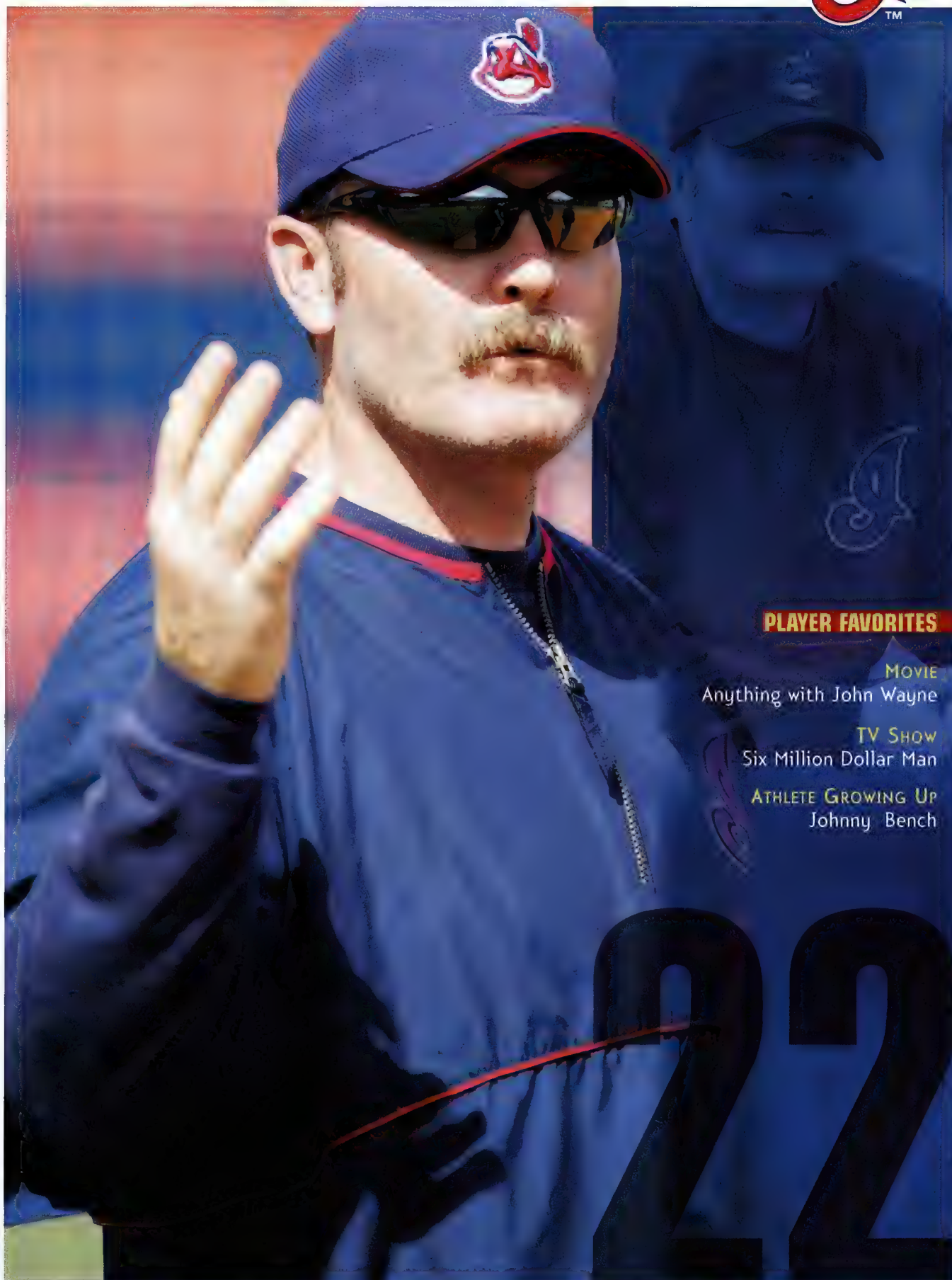
"I think I'll bring some stability to the rotation, and help make guys feel like they don't have to do so much," says Millwood. "The more comfortable you are, the better you'll perform."

Indians officials feel the addition of Millwood, and the other players added during the offseason should allow the team to contend for the Central Division title. If healthy, Gonzalez is a middle-of-the-order slugger who adds punch to what was one of the league's better offenses last year.

Hernandez and Cora will bring depth to the infield, allowing Wedge to rest his starters more, thereby keeping them fresher for the late-season division race, while Rhodes is a left-handed reliever, a commodity the team lacked last season.

"My goal this year," Millwood says, "is to give us a chance to win every time I go out there."

And that's something he's certainly comfortable with — regardless of the size of the city.



PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

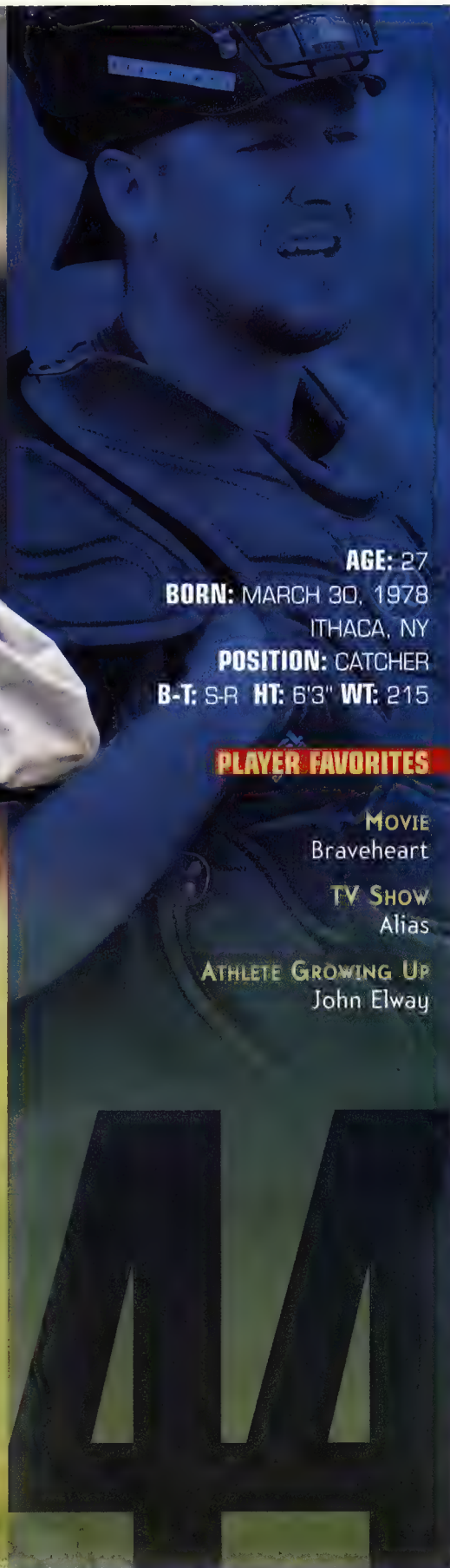
Anything with John Wayne

TV SHOW

Six Million Dollar Man

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Johnny Bench



AGE: 27

BORN: MARCH 30, 1978

ITHACA, NY

POSITION: CATCHER

B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 215

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

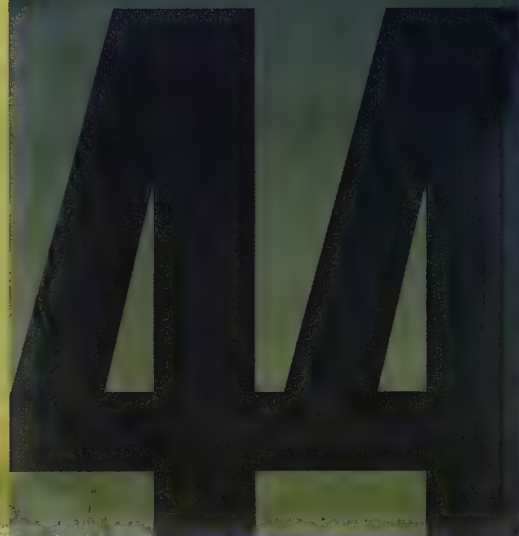
Braveheart

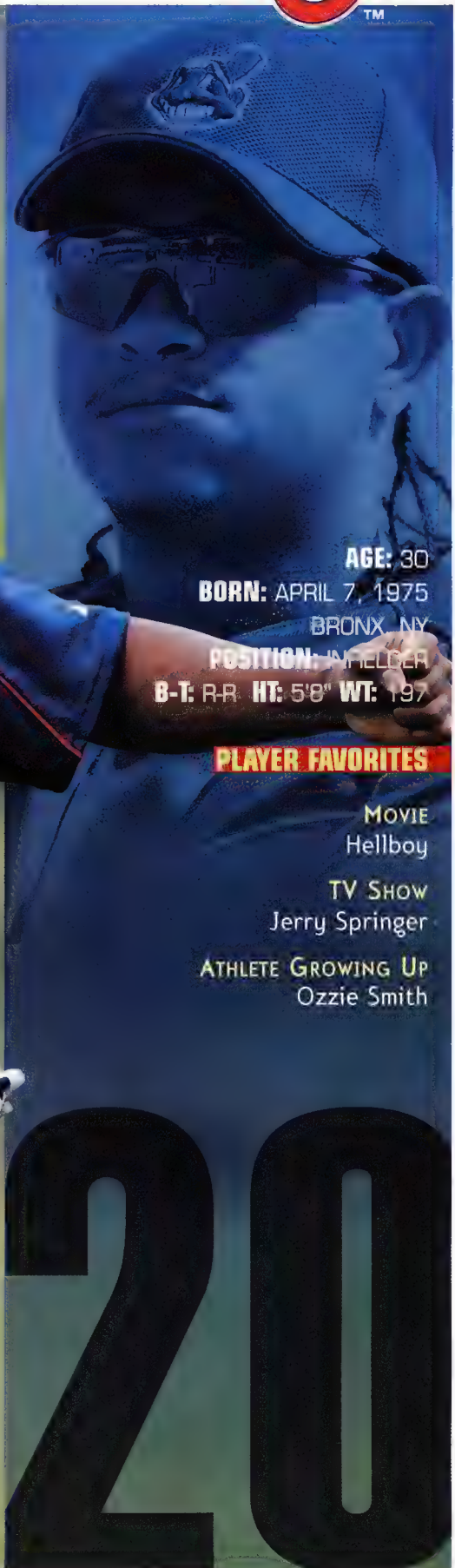
TV SHOW

Alias

ATHLETE GROWING UP

John Elway





AGE: 30

BORN: APRIL 7, 1975

BRONX, NY

POSITION: INFELDER

B-T: RR HT: 5'8" WT: 197

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Hellboy

TV SHOW
Jerry Springer

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Ozzie Smith

20



AGE: 31
BORN: AUG. 23, 1973
DES MOINES, IA
POSITION: OUTFIELDER
B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

TV SHOW
Saturday Night Live

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Michael Jordan



AGE: 31

BORN: MARCH 9, 1974

LA MESA, CA

POSITION: INFILDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

The Shawshank Redemption

TV SHOW

Seinfeld

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Maurice Cheeks



AGE: 28

BORN: SEPT. 24, 1976

BEAUMONT, TX

POSITION: INFIELDER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 220

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

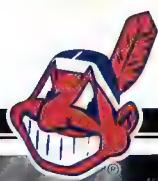
The Matrix

TV SHOW

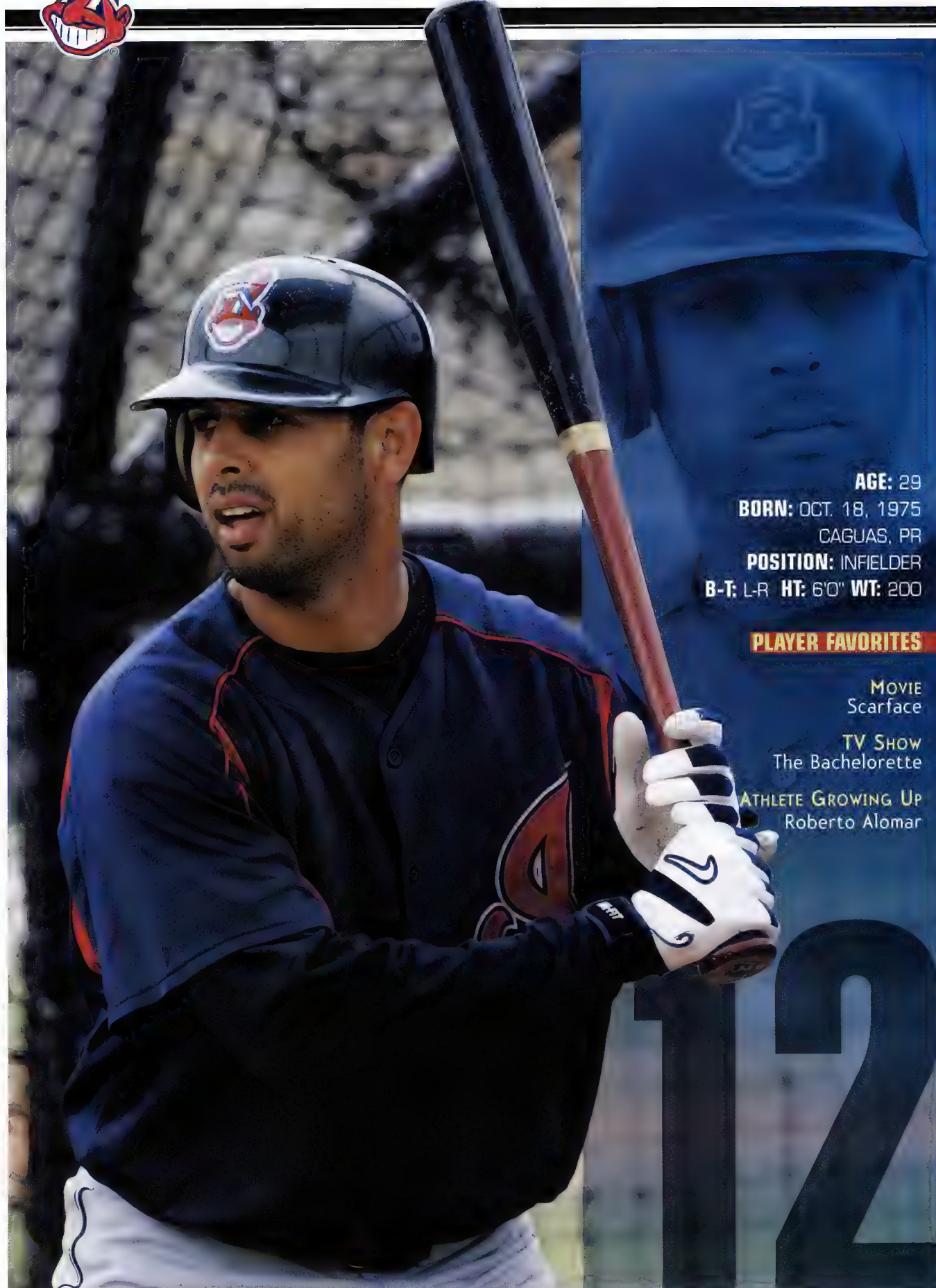
Law & Order

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Ted Williams



ALEX CORA



AGE: 29

BORN: OCT. 18, 1975

CAGUAS, PR

POSITION: INFILDER

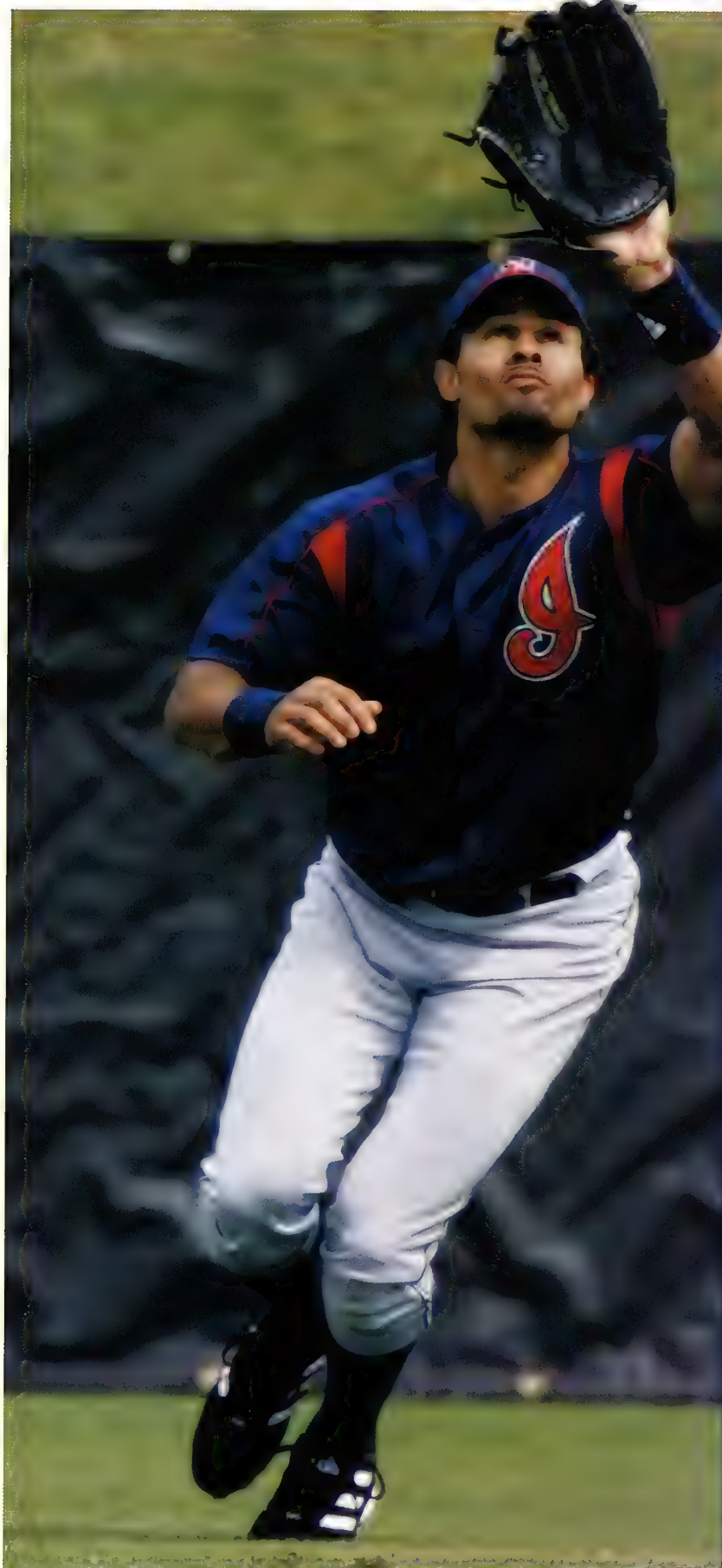
B-T: L-R **HT:** 6'0" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Scarface

TV SHOW
The Bachelorette

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Roberto Alomar



AGE: 25
BORN: NOV. 1, 1979
LOS ANGELES, CA
POSITION: OUTFIELDER
B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'0" **WT:** 180

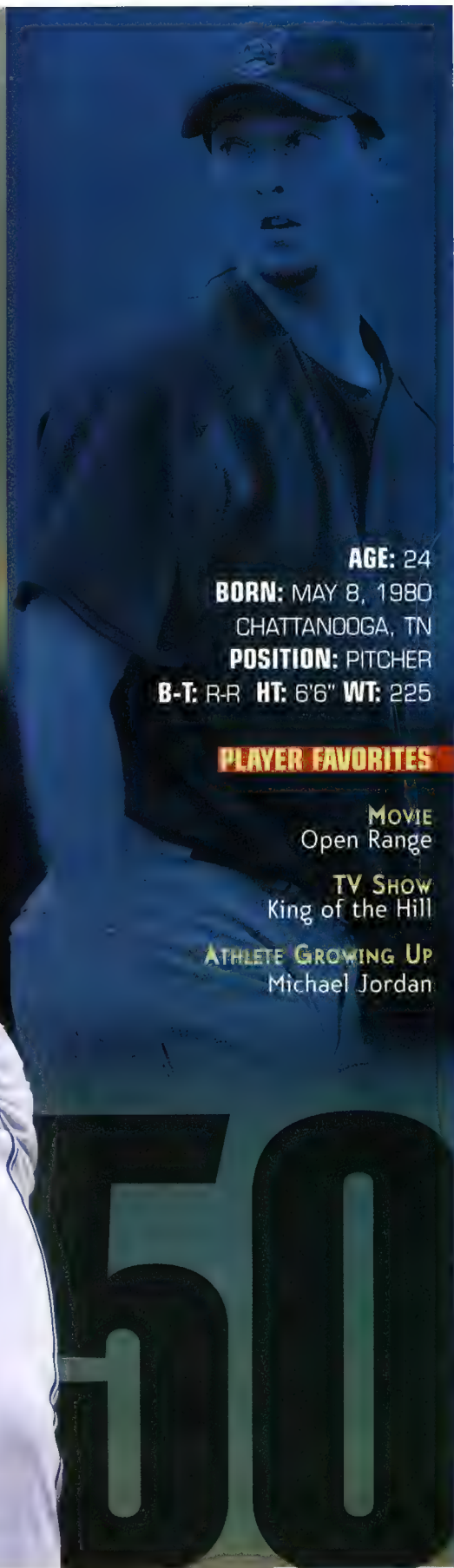
PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
The Last Dragon

TV SHOW
Seinfeld

ATHLETE GROWING UP:
Rickey Henderson

10



AGE: 24

BORN: MAY 8, 1980

CHATTANOOGA, TN

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'6" **WT:** 225

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Open Range

TV SHOW

King of the Hill

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Michael Jordan

50



AGE: 29

BORN: FEB. 23, 1976

LAMAR, CO

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'8" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

The Sting

TV SHOW

King of the Hill

ATHLETE GROWING UP

"My brother, Ryan"

2009



Other programs through the Indians Community Outreach include:

FIRSTENERGY GRAND SLAM LITERACY PROGRAM

In conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Library System, players, their wives, and front office staff visit various libraries during the summer months to motivate students to read. Indians personnel come and read their favorite books to children in elementary school.

"They really get excited to see and hear the players," says Kim Merryman, public relations director for the library. "This program really provides the human interaction kids want, and they get a chance to learn while meeting their favorite Indians players."

KEYBANK HIGH ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

As a participant in the High Achievers Program, Principal Bob Trapp, of Olmsted Falls High School, has the opportunity to reward deserving students with two free tickets to Indians home games. The Cleveland Indians provide the school, along with many others throughout the area in grades 4 through 12, with approximately 70 tickets a season. Trapp distributes the tickets to the Students of the Month for their outstanding classroom work. "The students seem really excited when they win tickets and it's also a nice surprise," he says.

KeyBank and the Indians have provided nearly 200,000 tickets to deserving students since 1994. In addition, through the KeyBank Charitable Complimentary Ticket Program, almost 75,000 free tickets have been distributed to assist the underprivileged, seniors, and the disabled since Jacobs Field opened.



Brenda and Ben Broussard have a great time reading to kids and their families at the Brooklyn Library branch.

PLAIN DEALER TRIBE REPORTER FOR A DAY

For Dana Raponi, working as the Tribe Reporter for a Day was "definitely an eye-opening experience." Designed for high school students considering journalism careers, the program gives 25 essay-contest winners the opportunity to get behind the scenes of an Indians reporter's workday.

Participants choose to be a photographer, sports writer, or television journalist. Raponi and her group toured the Ballpark, attended a press conference with Manager Eric Wedge, and watched batting practice before the game. (The highlight was when Omar Vizquel came over to say "Hi.") "It was a once-in-lifetime experience," she says.

BOONE'S BUDDIES PRESENTED BY MEDICAL MUTUAL

Members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland and their families will receive tickets and food-and-beverage coupons, and sit along the third base line to cheer on Boone every Saturday during the 2005 season.

— Beth Stallings

THE BOOK BOYS

Indians players participate in the FIRSTENERGY GRAND SLAM LITERACY PROGRAM each year to motivate kids to read. But what books have these Tribe sluggers turning the page?



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

JODY GERUT:

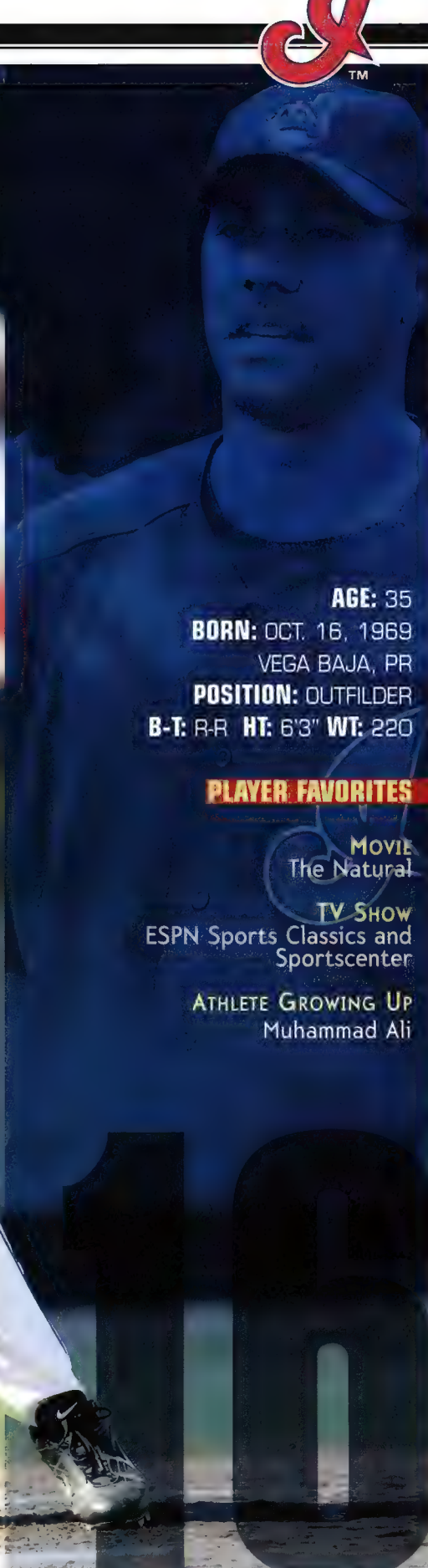
*Flags of our Fathers:
Heroes of Iwo Jima,
James Bradley and
Ron Powers*

CASEY BLAKE:

*Tuesdays with Morrie,
Mitch Albom*

BEN BROUSSARD:

*Angels and Demons,
Dan Brown*



AGE: 35

BORN: OCT. 16, 1969

VEGA BAJA, PR

POSITION: OUTFIELDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 220

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

The Natural

TV SHOW

ESPN Sports Classics and Sportscenter

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Muhammad Ali

16

All photos: Gregory Drezdson



AGE: 27

BORN: JUNE 3, 1977
JAMESTOWN, ND

POSITION: INFIELDER

B-T: L-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Old School

TV SHOW
Pro Wrestling

ROAD CITY
Chicago

40



AGE: 35
BORN: JULY 14, 1969
VEGA ALTA, PR
POSITION: INFILDER
B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 190

PLAYER FAVORITES

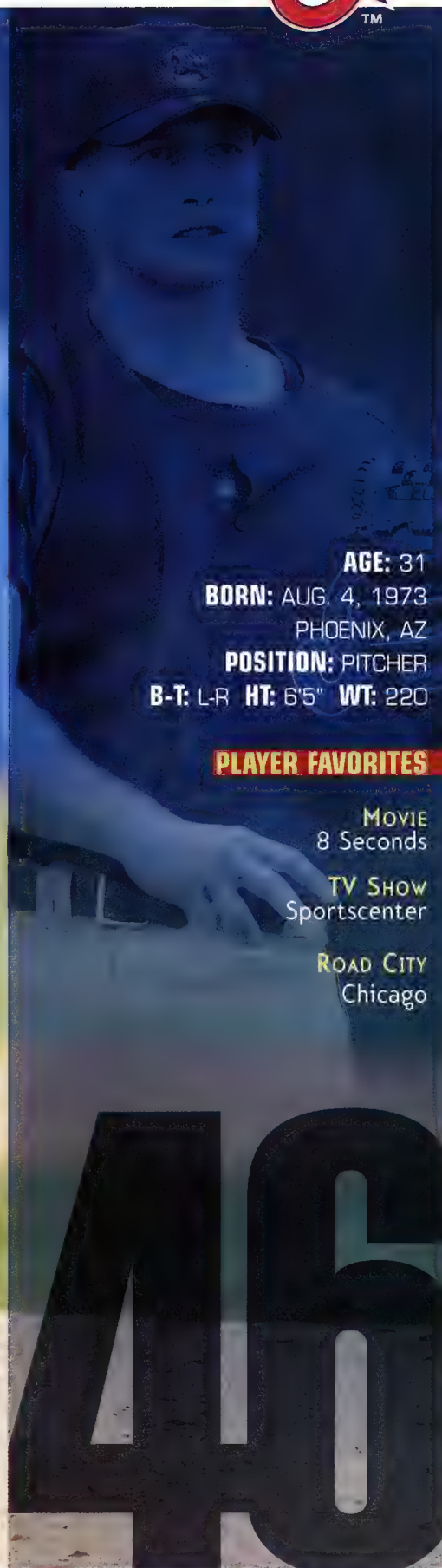
MOVIE
The Professional

TV SHOW
Martin

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Ozzie Smith

11

All photos: Gregory Drezdron



AGE: 31

BORN: AUG. 4, 1973

PHOENIX, AZ

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-R **HT:** 6'5" **WT:** 220

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

8 Seconds

TV SHOW

Sportscenter

ROAD CITY

Chicago

46



AGE: 26

BORN: AUG. 30, 1978

BENTON, AR

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 190

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

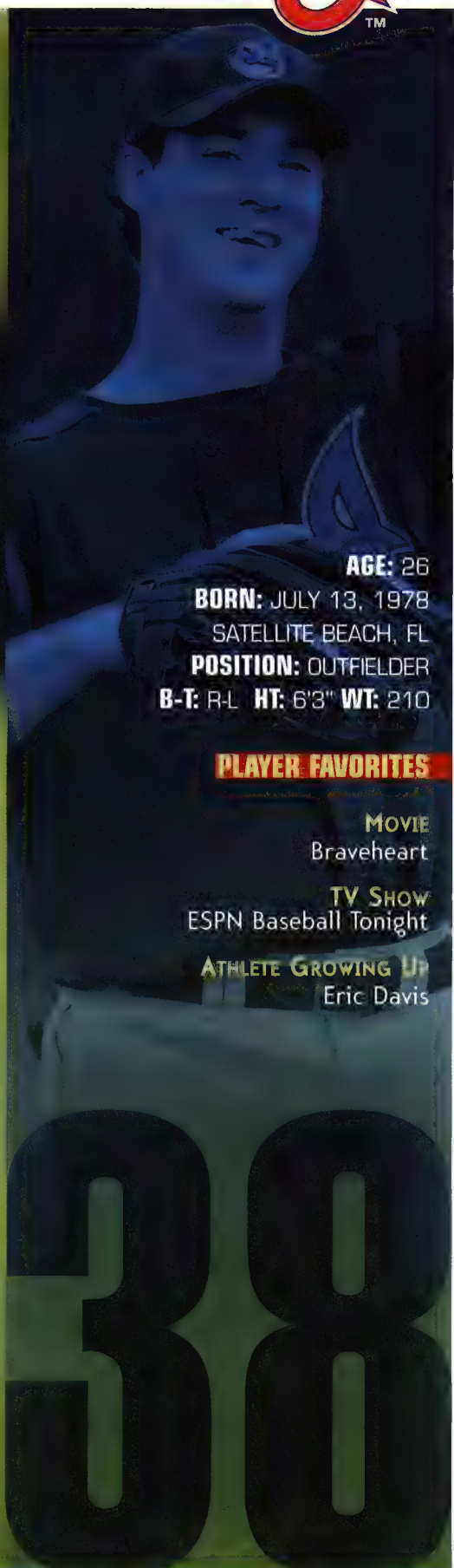
Braveheart

TV SHOW

Punk'd

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Michael Jordan



AGE: 26

BORN: JULY 13, 1978

SATELLITE BEACH, FL

POSITION: OUTFIELDER

B-T: R-L **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Braveheart

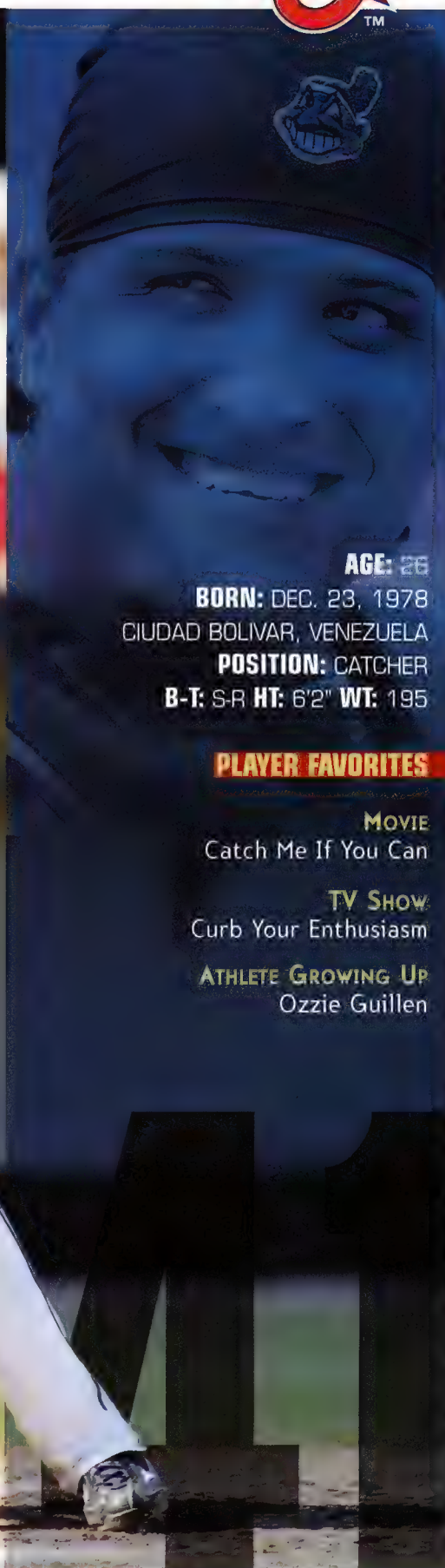
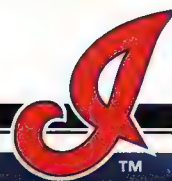
TV SHOW

ESPN Baseball Tonight

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Eric Davis

38



AGE: 26

BORN: DEC. 23, 1978

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, VENEZUELA

POSITION: CATCHER

B-T: S-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 195

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

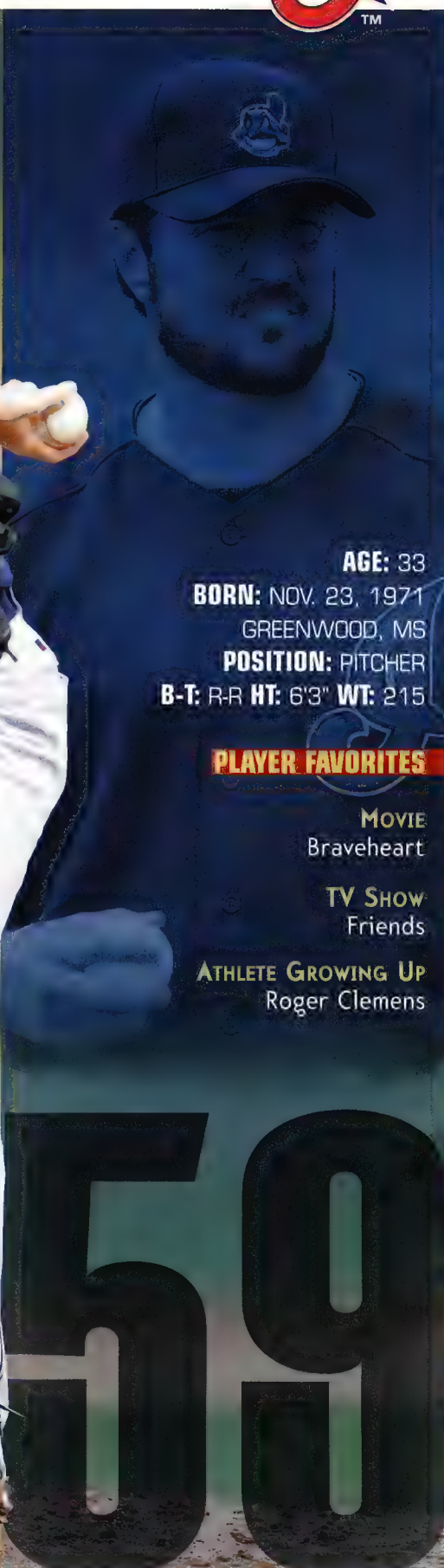
Catch Me If You Can

TV SHOW

Curb Your Enthusiasm

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Ozzie Guillen



AGE: 33

BORN: NOV. 23, 1971

GREENWOOD, MS

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 215

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Braveheart

TV SHOW

Friends

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Roger Clemens

59



48

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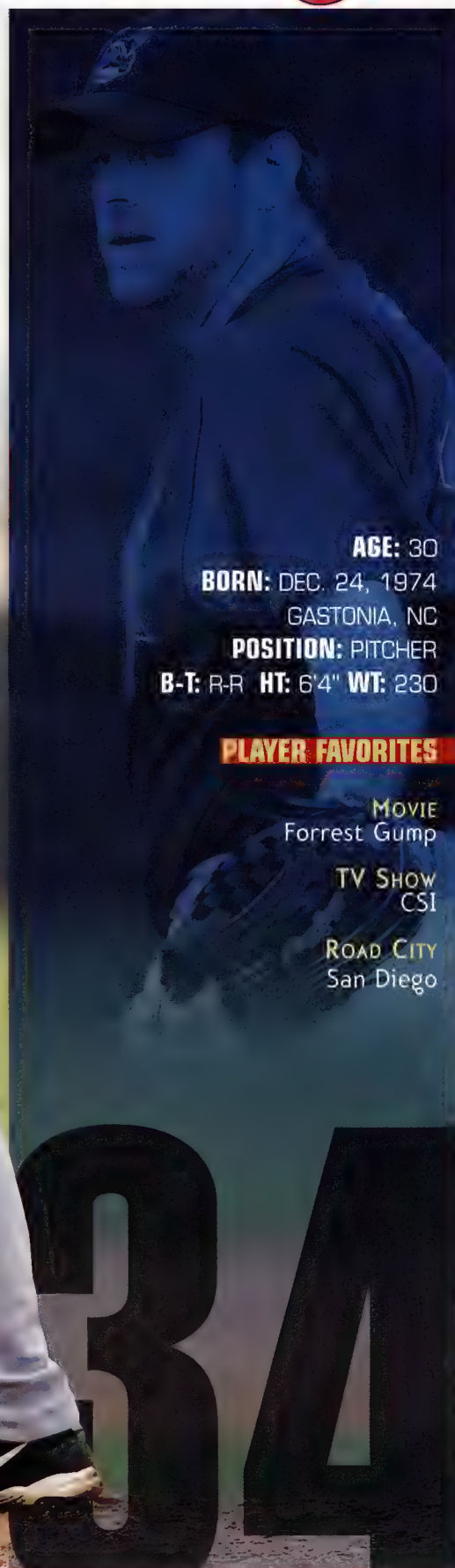
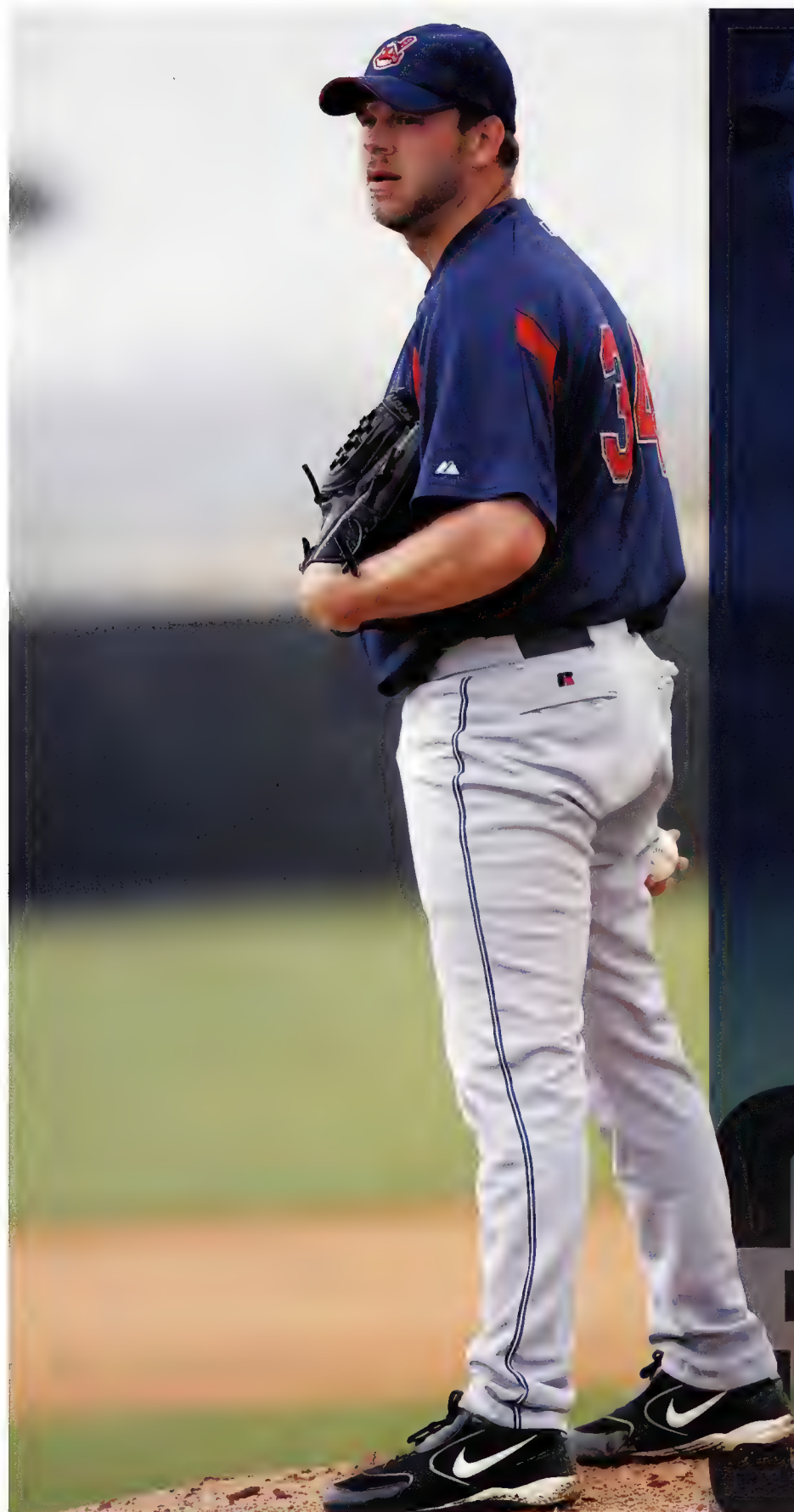
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AGE: 30

BORN: DEC. 24, 1974

GASTONIA, NC

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'4" **WT:** 230

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Forrest Gump

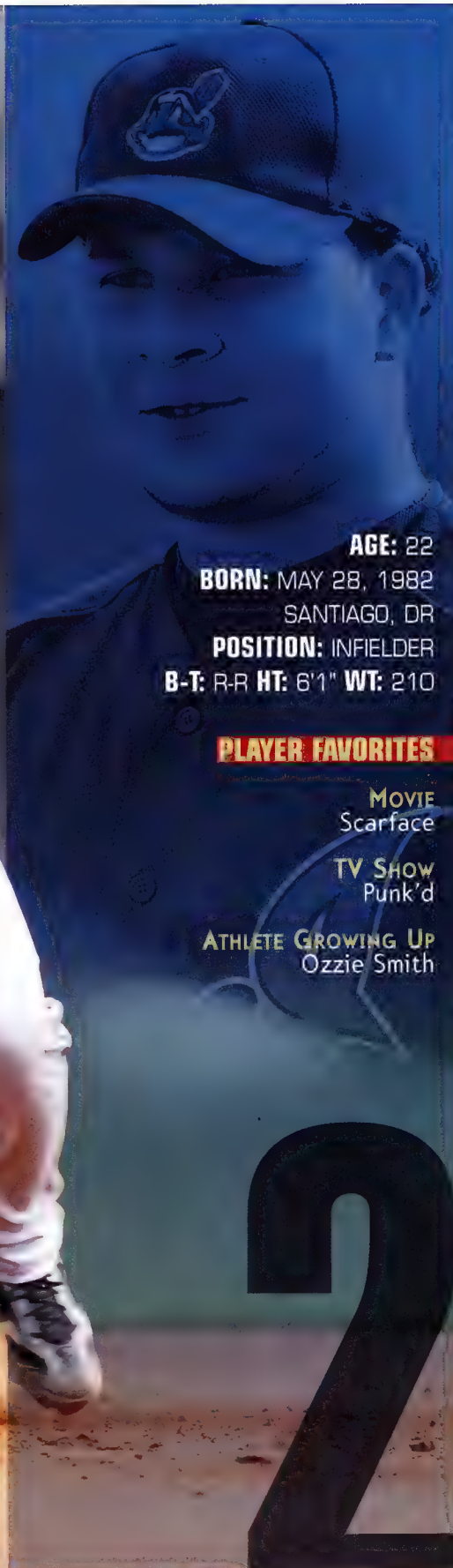
TV SHOW

CSI

ROAD CITY

San Diego

34



AGE: 22

BORN: MAY 28, 1982

SANTIAGO, DR

POSITION: INFIELDER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 210

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Scarface

TV SHOW
Punk'd

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Ozzie Smith

2



AGE: 35

BORN: OCT. 24, 1969

WACO, TX

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 212

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Hitch

TV SHOW

Medium

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Nolan Ryan



AGE: 28

BORN: OCT. 23, 1976

RENTON, WA

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'2" **WT:** 180

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Blue Chips

TV SHOW

Best Damn Sports Show Period

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Michael Jordan

54



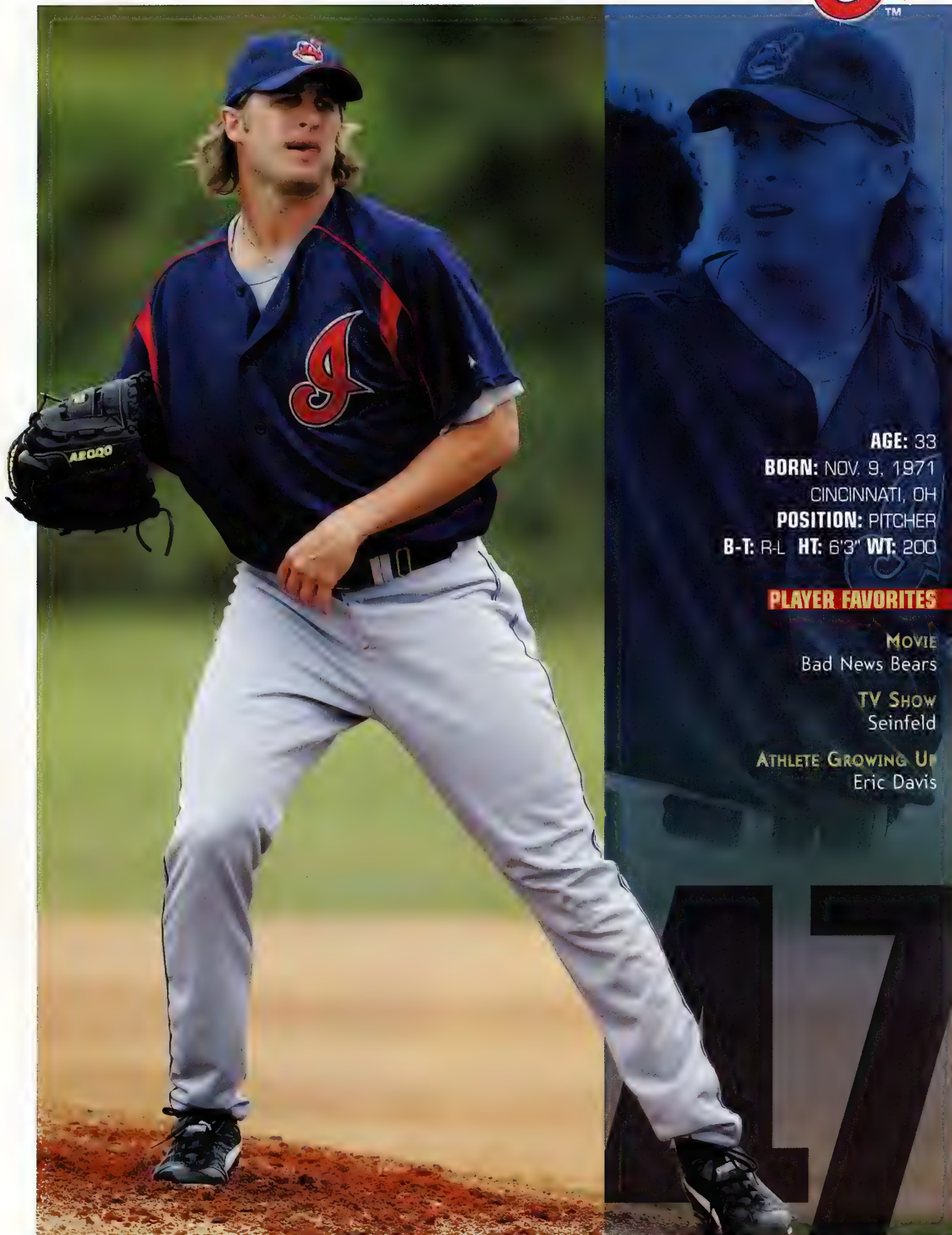
AGE: 24
BORN: JULY 21, 1980
VALLEJO, CA
POSITION: PITCHER
B-T: L-L **HT:** 6'7" **WT:** 290

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE
Scarface

TV SHOW
CSI

ATHLETE GROWING UP
Ken Griffey Jr.



AGE: 33

BORN: NOV. 9, 1971

CINCINNATI, OH

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-L **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

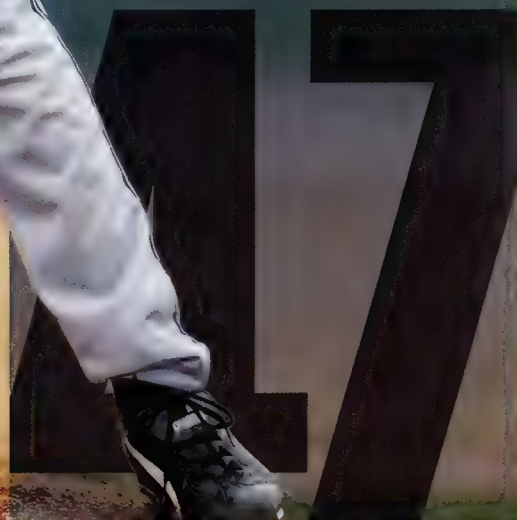
Bad News Bears

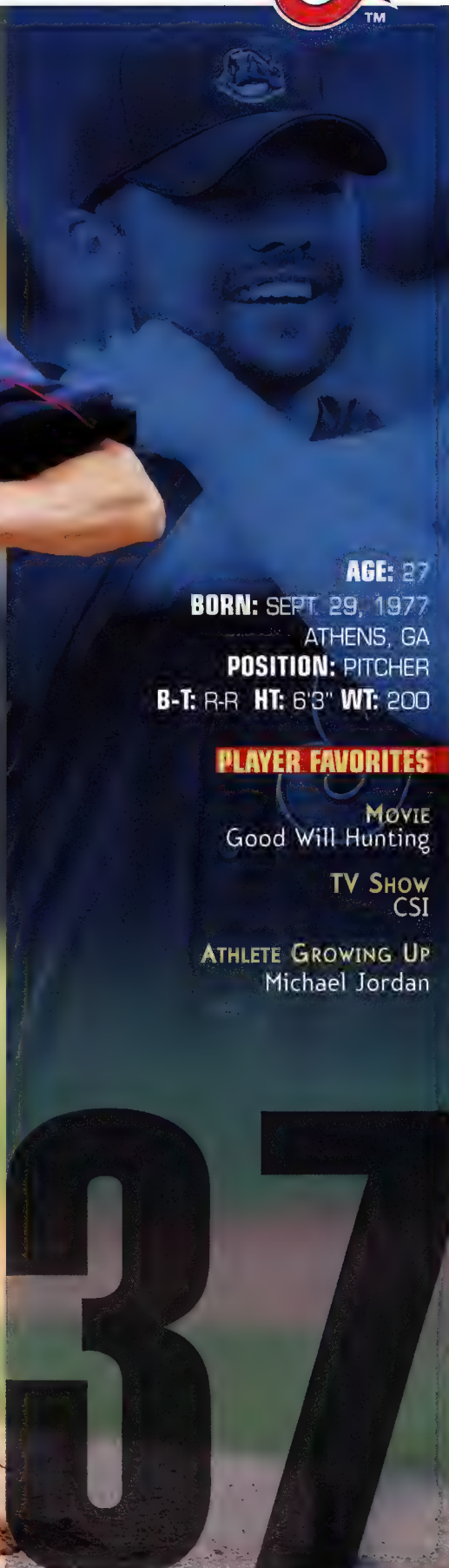
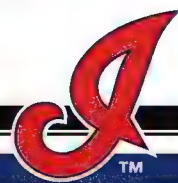
TV SHOW

Seinfeld

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Eric Davis





AGE: 27

BORN: SEPT. 29, 1977

ATHENS, GA

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'3" **WT:** 200

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Good Will Hunting

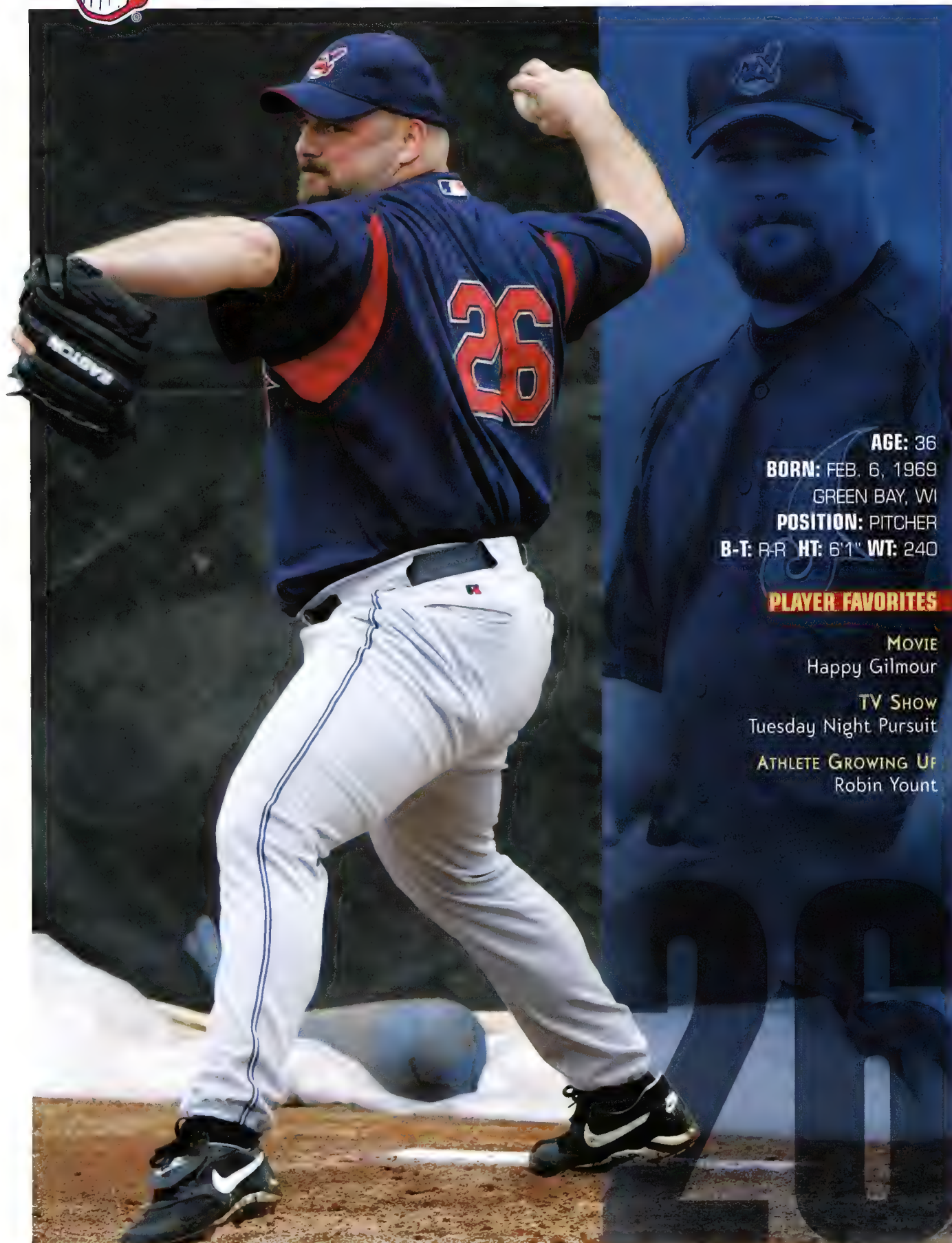
TV SHOW

CSI

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Michael Jordan

37



AGE: 36

BORN: FEB. 6, 1969

GREEN BAY, WI

POSITION: PITCHER

B-T: R-R **HT:** 6'1" **WT:** 240

PLAYER FAVORITES

MOVIE

Happy Gilmore

TV SHOW

Tuesday Night Pursuit

ATHLETE GROWING UP

Robin Yount

SLIDER Appearances



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

WHO:

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- Appearance time
- Location of appearance

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All photos: Gregory Drezdzon

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Health System**



Rainbow Babies
& Children's Hospital



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

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From Aminco.

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From Nutmeg.
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YOUTH 8-20 SIZES S-XL. \$12.95
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From Hunter.

INDIANS POLYCARBONATE BOTTLE \$8.00
From Betras Plastics.



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From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".

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From Majestic. Sizes 40-56.

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From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".



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From Majestic. Sizes M-2X.

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From New Era. Sizes 6-7/8" to 7-5/8".

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From Majestic. Sizes M-2X.



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HAFNER 48

TRAVIS HAFNER

Designated hitter

WHEN YOU'RE A designated hitter in the Major Leagues, the name of the game is simple: Hit the ball hard. Yeah, like 28 homers and 109 RBI hard. And when your name is Travis Hafner — aka "Pronk" — and you're getting your locker ready for Spring Training, the name of the game is simple, too: Think small. "Our Spring Training lockers are about half the size of the ones back in Cleveland," says Hafner. "So I can only bring my really good T-shirts down to Florida."

1. MAIL

I get about 60 or 70 letters a week. A lot of them are people sending baseball cards for me to sign and then return in the envelope they send. It usually gets to a point where you're forced to go through all your mail because there's no place to put your glove.

2. THE OU HAT

It's not an Ohio State hat, it's an Oklahoma hat. But if that's going to offend anyone in Ohio, let's just say the red matched my T-shirt that day.



All photos: Gregory Drezdron

3. JEANS

I've got my jeans and I'm not afraid to wear them. I'm probably the reason we have a dress code.

4. THE T-SHIRTS

I'm a huge fan of professional wrestling. Every time I go to an event, I wind up buying another T-shirt. I used to like Stone Cold Steve Austin and Goldberg. Triple H is probably my favorite now.

5. INDIANS GEAR

In Spring Training we get two jerseys, one for batting practice and one for the game. Plus we'll get some shorts and a couple of Indians T-shirts we're supposed to wear under our jerseys. Although a wrestling T-shirt usually winds up under my jersey.

6. HANGERS

We have bins with our name on them where we throw our dirty stuff. Then the clubhouse guy hangs the clean clothes back up for us. Yeah, it's pretty nice.

7. BATTING GLOVES

I kinda go overboard with batting gloves. At any time during the season, I could have over 100 pairs. I'll wear them for a game or two and I never throw them out. Usually at the end of the year I'll have like 200 pairs and I'll donate them to my old college, or I'll send them off with any of our guys who are heading off to the Dominican Republic or someplace where kids could use them.

— Lane Strauss

